

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 26, 2007, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 and 3 through 28 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 through 6, 11, 12, 14 through 16 and 28 stand rejected. Claims 3, 7 through 10, 13, and 17 through 21 have been objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but have been identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes the indication of allowable subject matter with appreciation. Claims 22 through 27 are allowed. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended and in view of the remarks set forth below.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,773,938 to Wood et al.

Claims 1, 4 through 6, 11, 12, 14 through 16, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wood et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,773,938).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

The Examiner has suggested at Page 6 of the outstanding Office Action that language be added “which describes the depression, for example: the Applicant would need to say that the width of the depression is larger than the depth.” While the Applicant believes the claims were allowable as previously presented, in an effort to expedite allowance of the application, Applicant has amended each of claims 1 and 11, without prejudice or disclaimer, to include language different than that suggested by the Examiner, but nonetheless which patentably distinguishes over Wood et al. and does not further limit the claims.

Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by Wood et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because Wood et al. does not describe each and every element of independent claims 1 and 11, as currently amended. In particular, Wood et al. does

not describe “ablating [a depression] elongated to a length in a direction substantially parallel to a surface of [a] semiconductor substrate in and along the surface..., the length [of the depression] being greater than a width [of the depression],” as recited in each of independent claims 1 and 11.

Wood et al. describes a microelectronic component test system 10 that includes a probe card 20. *Wood et al.*, col. 3, lines 10-14; FIG. 1. With reference to FIGS. 4-16, Wood et al. describes a method of manufacturing the probe card 20. *Id.*, col. 3, lines 49-50. A substrate 200 is provided and blind vias or holes are formed in the substrate. *Id.*, col. 3, lines 50-51, 63; FIG. 5. The blind vias or holes “*extend inwardly* from the front face 202 of the substrate to a depth A from the front face 202,” and include a diameter B which may be a lateral dimension for non-circular holes 210. *Id.*, col. 3, lines 64-66; col. 4, lines 23-24; FIG. 5. The blind vias or holes 210 may be formed in a variety of ways, including being laser machined via laser ablation. *Id.*, col. 4, lines 7-8, 19-20. Once the blind vias or holes 210 are formed, an intermediate layer 215 may be deposited on the substrate 200 to cover the front face 202 of the substrate and an internal surface of each of the holes 210. *Id.*, col. 4, lines 41-47; FIG. 6. A conductive material is then deposited over the intermediate layer 215 and may substantially fill each of the holes 210. *Id.*, col. 5, lines 15-19; FIG. 7.

Wood et al. merely describes ablating holes 210 in a surface of the substrate 200 that extend inwardly from the front face 202 surface and have a specific diameter or lateral dimension B. *Id.*, col. 3, lines 64-65; col. 4, lines 23-24. The holes 210 described by Wood et al. do not have a length along the front face 202 surface that is greater than a width along the front face 202 surface of the substrate 200. On the contrary, the holes 210 have a constant diameter/lateral dimension. Additionally, as asserted in responses to previous office actions, the holes 210 described by Wood et al. are not elongated in a direction substantially parallel to the front face 202 surface of the substrate 200. On the contrary, the holes 210 extend inwardly from the front face 202 surface and are elongated in a direction substantially *perpendicular* to the front face 202 surface of the substrate 200.

As Wood et al. does not expressly or inherently describe ablating a depression in a substrate that is elongated to a length in a direction substantially parallel to a surface, the length of the depression being greater than a width of the depression, as recited in each of independent

claims 1 and 11 as currently amended, Applicant asserts that independent claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by Wood et al. and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Applicant additionally asserts that each of dependent claims 4 through 6 and 28 is allowable at least because each depends directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, which is allowable. Therefore, Applicant asserts that each of the dependent claims 4 through 6 and 28 is not anticipated by Wood et al. and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 4 through 6 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Applicant additionally asserts that each of the dependent claims 12 and 14 through 16 is allowable at least because each depends directly or indirectly from independent claim 11, which is allowable. Therefore, Applicant asserts that each of the dependent claims 12 and 14 through 16 is not anticipated by Wood et al. and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 12 and 14 through 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Objections to Claims /Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 7 through 10, 13, and 17 through 21 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Each of the claims 3, 7 through 10, 13, and 17 through 21 depends either directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims 1 and 11. Applicant respectfully asserts that each of the independent claims 1 and 11 is allowable at least for the reasons previously discussed. Therefore, Applicant asserts that each of the claims 3, 7 through 10, 13, and 17 through 21, as presented herein, depends from an allowable base claim, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claims 3, 7 through 10, 13, and 17 through 21.

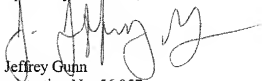
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 1 and 11 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 and 3 through 28 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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